

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4246

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8616

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP SNAR MX US

SUBJECT: TOPICS FOR PRESIDENTIAL MEETING: NARCOTICS

1. IT IS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT, FROM USG VIEWPOINT, NARCOTICS IS OUR NUMBER ONE BILATERAL PROBLEM WITH MEXICO. WE DO APPRECIATE THE FINE COOPERATION WE RECEIVE FROM THE GOM, BUT FACT REMAINS THAT DESPITE OUR JOINT GOOD EFFORTS MORE MEXICAN BROWN HEROIN IS ENTERING THE US THAN EVER BEFORE. WE DO NOT IN ANY WAY SUGGEST THAT PRESIDENT FORD MAKE CRITICAL OR OTHERWISE UNPLEASANT OBSERVATIONS TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA CONCERNING THE GOM NARCOTICS EFFORT; BUT WE DO STRONGLY URGE THAT SOMEWHERE IN THEIR CONVERSATION THE GENERAL SUBJECT BE DISCUSSED.

2. WHILE WE HAVE NO PARTICULAR REASON TO EXPECT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT, HE MAY VERY WELL MAKE SOME REFERENCE TO HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY MEXICO/US COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD IS GOING FORWARD.

3. EVEN IF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA DOES NOT INITIATE THE DISCUSSION, WE VERY STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT PRESIDENT FORD DO SO. HE MIGHT LEAD INTO IT WITH A POSITIVE REFERENCE TO THE FINE COOPERATION AND HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THE GOM'S WHOLEHEARTED INTEREST AND EFFORTS IN THIS SERIOUS
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SOCIAL PROBLEM AFFECTING PRIMARILY THE YOUTH OF OUR TWO

COUNTRIES. NONETHELESS, HE MIGHT ADD, WE ARE A LONG WAY FROM STOPPING OR EVEN SERIOUSLY DIMINISHING THE FLOW; AND THE USG IS VERY ANXIOUS TO HELP IN WHICHEVER WAY IT CAN TO FURTHER THE GOM'S GOOD WORK IN THIS AREA.

4. IF WASHINGTON DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE, IT MIGHT ALSO BE SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD ACKNOWLEDGE THE DEDICATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MEXICAN FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE UNDER ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA. HE MIGHT ADD THAT WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THE IMPRESSIVE HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES WHICH THE MEXICAN ARMY BRINGS TO BEAR ON THE ERADICATION EFFORT AND NOTE THAT WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL.

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